Restricting the number of independent candidates for Elections

*338. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA:
DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to limit the number of independent candidates contesting the elections; and

(b) i'f so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a and (b) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990 which is pending in the Rajya Sabha, contains a proposal to increase the amount of security deposit to be made by an independent candidate. Meanwhile, it is also proposed to have a meeting of leaders of parties in Parliament to discuss a composite reform of. the electoral law.

Cost Audit Report of Companies

*339. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the com panies which have not submitted cost audit reports to his Ministry during the last three years;

(b) what action has been taken against them; and

(c) what are the details of cost audit reports which have been scrutinised during the year 1991-92 and what are the findings of each?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRl K. VI JA YA BHASKARA REDDY): (a) and (b) A statement giving the names of the companies who have not submitted Cost Audit Reports during the three years 1987-88 to 1989-90 is attached.

[See Appendix CLXII, Annexure No. 65] Registrar of Companies concerned have been requested to initiate necessary proceedings including launching of prosecution in these cases.

(c) During the year 1991-92, so far 326 Cost Audit reports have been re. ceived. A copy each of these Cost Audit Reports was also sent to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices and the Administrative Ministry concerned for appropriate action at ther end. Review of Cost Audit reports revealed cases of excessive profits, misutilisation of imports, under utilisation of capacity, inefficiency in the usage °f raw materials, deficiency in the maintenance of cost recordg etc. These issues have been taken up with the concerned Ministries, Cost Audv tors and the companies and the follow up action in each case is in progress.

Issuing passports from Hyderabad and Madras passport offices

*340. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVA. JI. Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of applications filed per day with the passport offices of Hyderabad and Madras;

(b) the number of passports issued per day from there;

(c) what is the time taken to get the passport after applying;

(d) what steps have been taken to avoid delay; and

(e) whether there is any propose! to introduce computers in passport offices; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Average number of applications currently being filed for passports is 665 and 988 per day at Passport Office Madras and Hydera. bad respectively.

(b) 278 passports and 1222 passports per day at Madras and Hyderabad respectively.

(c) Five to six months (average)

(d) Some more officers have been transferred to Passport Offices, Mad-res and Hyderabad. In addition, the passport procedures have been simplified as per details given at state, ment. (See below)

(e) It is proposed to computerise data processing in some Passport Offices in 1992-93.

Statement

Simplification of *Passport Procedures*

1. Following categories of applicants have been exempted from re. quirement of prior police and CID verifications before issue of passports to them;

(a) All Government servants and Employees of Public Sector Undertakings who alongwith their applications submit No Objection Certificate (NOC) and verification certifi. cate signed by their Head of Department on Official stationery.

(b) Retired Gazetted Government Servants.

(c) Former Members of Union Parliament (Rajya Sabha aud-Lok Sabha) and State Legislatures (Assemblies and Councils).

(d) Sitting MPs and MLAs have been exempted from requirement of police verification where they choose to apply for an ordinary passport.

(e) Whether an applicant submits his application accompanied with a verification certificate sighed by; either:

(i) a Deputy Secretary to the. Government of India and above:

(ii) a Joint Secretary and above to a State Government:

(iii) a Sub-Divisional Magistrate and above:

(iv) District Superintendent of Police and above:

2. In cases where Regional Passport Offiecrs [Passport Officirs are other wise satisfied with genuineness of ap plicant, a passport may be issued where police and CID do not send their reports in 4 weeks after despat ching personal particulars forms to them.

3. Children below the age of 15 years may be issued passport without waiting for police verification.

4. Persons holding normal passports map be issued fresh passports after 10 years of its validity without waiting for prior police/CID verification.

5. As from 16-8-90, the Indian ordinary passport has been made valid for, a period of ten years at a stretch from date of issue.

6. To increase the productivity of Passport Officers steps are being taken to computerise the Passport Offices. •

7. Attestation of photographs of-applicants by Gazetted officers has been dispensed with.

8. The Application Forms completed in all respects will be accepted on counters of Passport Offices, even from persons other than the applica-tanta .

9. Passport Ofiicers have been advi sed to accept a copy of letter of em ployment from reputed employers to- wards proof of stay of an applicant within jurisdiction of passport offices. .

10. The Passport Application Form, has been revised and all relevant pieces of information have been compiled and appended to each applica? tion form so that applicant is able *to* fill up application form correctly.

11. In case of Gulf evacuees, it has been decided to issue them Police Clearance Certificate based on verification certificate issued by the concerned District Superintendent of Police.

12. Restriction on Indian Passport, holders visiting South Africa has been removed with effect from 10th December, 1991.

Pressler's apprehension on Pak Nuclear Programme

3246. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAN- DRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the American Senetor Larry Pressler du ring his 11 days official visit *of* South Asia, also paid a visit to Pakistan and India;

(b) whether it is also a fact the while communicating his impressions to Indian officials and representatives he indicated that Pakistan is not in clined to give up its nuclear weapon programme and heading alongwith its full speed: and

(c) if so, what is the Government's reaction to Senator Pressler's revela tions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO), (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Senator Pressler observed that the US Government had made a determination that Pakistan had nuclear weapon capability and possessed a nuclear device which it could use. He called upon the Pakistan Government to take steps to publicly dismantle its nuclear weapons and its nuclear capability.

(c) Government of India continuously monitor all developments affecting India's security and national interest and take appropriate measures to safeguard the same.

पाकिस्तान द्वारा कश्मीर मुद्दे के अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय करण का प्रयास

3247. श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पाकिस्तान ने कश्मीर मुद्दे का अन्तर्राष्ट्रीयकरण करने के अपने अभियान को तेज करना शुरू कर दिया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में भारत सरकार ने अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की है ; और

(ग) कश्मीर मुद्दे के समाधान के लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा विभिन्न देशों एवं राजनयिकों के साथ की गई बातचीत का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एडुआर्डो फेलेरियो): (क) सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि पाकिस्तान शिमला समझौते का उल्लंघन करते हुए कश्मीर के मसले को निरन्तर अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय रूप देने का प्रयास कर रहा है ।

(ख) और (ग) सरकार ने जम्मू और कश्मीर की स्थिति के सही तथ्यों की अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय समुदाय को जानकारी दे दी है । इस बात को व्यापक रूप से मान्यता है कि भारत के विरुद्ध चलाए जा रहे आतंकवाद